

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1 (cancelled)

2 (currently amended). A retroviral reverse transcriptase having RNA-dependent DNA polymerase activity which comprises an amino acid substitution ~~one or more modifications or mutations at positions corresponding to amino acids~~ corresponding to a substitution selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a substitution of leucine 52 of M-MLV reverse transcriptase for a different amino acid;

(b) [(d)] a substitution of histidine 204 of M-MLV reverse transcriptase for a different amino acid;

(c) [(e)] a substitution of methionine 289 of M-MLV reverse transcriptase for a different amino acid; and

(d) [(f)] a substitution of threonine 306 of M-MLV reverse transcriptase for a different amino acid;

wherein the retroviral reverse transcriptase is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes to the complement of a nucleic acid encoding a wild type retroviral reverse transcriptase.

3 (currently amended). The reverse transcriptase of claim 2, wherein said wild type retroviral reverse transcriptase ~~which is~~ M-MLV reverse transcriptase.

4 (withdrawn). The reverse transcriptase of claim 3, wherein leucine 52 is replaced with proline.

5-6 (cancelled)

7 (original). The reverse transcriptase of claim 3, wherein histidine 204 is replaced with arginine.

8 (withdrawn). The reverse transcriptase of claim 3, wherein methionine 289 is replaced with leucine.

9 (withdrawn). The reverse transcriptase of claim 3, wherein threonine 306 is replaced with either lysine or arginine.

10 (currently amended). The reverse transcriptase of claim 3, wherein the reverse transcriptase has a substitution of ~~mutation or modification~~ at amino acids histidine 204 and threonine 306.

11 (original). The reverse transcriptase of claim 10, wherein histidine 204 is replaced with arginine and threonine 306 is replaced with either lysine or arginine.

12 (previously presented). The reverse transcriptase of claim 2, which retains at least 50% of reverse transcriptase activity after heating to 50°C for 5 minutes.

13 (previously presented). The reverse transcriptase of claim 2, which retains at least 70% of reverse transcriptase activity after heating to 50°C for 5 minutes.

14 (previously presented). The reverse transcriptase of claim 2, which retains at least 85% of reverse transcriptase activity after heating to 50°C for 5 minutes.

15 (previously presented). The reverse transcriptase of claim 2, which retains at least 95% of reverse transcriptase activity after heating to 50°C for 5 minutes.

16 (currently amended). The reverse transcriptase of claim 2, wherein the retroviral reverse transcriptase has one or more properties selected from the group consisting of:

(a) reduced or substantially reduced RNase H activity in comparison to ~~the corresponding~~ said wild-type reverse transcriptase ~~enzyme~~;

(b) reduced or substantially reduced terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase activity in comparison to ~~the corresponding~~ said wild-type reverse transcriptase enzyme; and

(c) increased fidelity in comparison to ~~the corresponding~~ said wild-type reverse transcriptase enzyme.

17 (currently amended). The reverse transcriptase of claim 16, wherein the retroviral reverse transcriptase has reduced or substantially reduced RNase H activity in comparison to ~~the corresponding~~ said wild-type reverse transcriptase enzyme.

18 (currently amended). The reverse transcriptase of claim 16, wherein the retroviral reverse transcriptase has reduced or substantially reduced terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase activity in comparison to ~~the corresponding~~ said wild-type reverse transcriptase enzyme.

19 (withdrawn). The reverse transcriptase of claim 18, wherein the reverse transcriptase has one or more one or more modifications or mutations at positions corresponding to amino acids selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) tyrosine 133 of M-MLV reverse transcriptase;
- (b) threonine 197 of M-MLV reverse transcriptase; and
- (c) phenylalanine 309 of M-MLV reverse transcriptase.

20 (withdrawn). The reverse transcriptase of claim 19, which is M-MLV reverse transcriptase.

21 (withdrawn). The reverse transcriptase of claim 20, wherein tyrosine 133 is replaced with alanine.

22 (withdrawn). The reverse transcriptase of claim 20, wherein threonine 197 is replaced with glutamic acid.

23 (withdrawn). The reverse transcriptase of claim 20, wherein phenylalanine 309 is replaced with asparagine.

24 (currently amended). The reverse transcriptase of claim 16, wherein the retroviral reverse transcriptase has increased fidelity in comparison to ~~the corresponding~~ said wild-type reverse transcriptase enzyme.

25 (withdrawn). The reverse transcriptase of claim 24, wherein the reverse transcriptase has one or more one or more modifications or mutations at positions corresponding to amino acids selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) tyrosine 64 of M-MLV reverse transcriptase;
- (b) arginine 116 of M-MLV reverse transcriptase; and
- (c) glutamine 190 of M-MLV reverse transcriptase; and
- (d) valine 223 of M-MLV reverse transcriptase.

26 (currently amended). The reverse transcriptase of claim 2, wherein the retroviral reverse transcriptase is selected from the group consisting of M-MLV, RSV, AMV, and HIV reverse transcriptases.

27 (currently amended). The reverse transcriptase of claim 26, wherein the retroviral reverse transcriptase is selected from the group consisting of M-MLV RNase H- reverse transcriptase, RSV RNase H- reverse transcriptase, AMV RNase H- reverse transcriptase, RAV RNase H- reverse transcriptase, and HIV RNase H- reverse transcriptase.

28 (currently amended). The reverse transcriptase of claim 26, wherein the retroviral reverse transcriptase is an M-MLV reverse transcriptase.

29 (withdrawn). The reverse transcriptase of claim 28, wherein aspartic acid 524 is replaced with glycine, glutamic acid 562 is replaced with glutamine, and aspartic acid 583 is replaced with asparagine.

30-43 (cancelled)

44 (currently amended). A kit for use in reverse transcription, amplification or sequencing of a nucleic acid molecule, the kit comprising one or more reverse transcriptases of claim 2 ~~claim 1~~.

45 (original). The kit of claim 44, the kit further comprising one or more components selected from the group consisting of one or more nucleotides, one or more DNA polymerases, a suitable buffer, one or more primers and one or more terminating agents.

46 (original). The kit of claim 45, wherein the terminating agent is a dideoxynucleotide.

47 (original). The kit of claim 44, wherein the reverse transcriptase is an M-MLV reverse transcriptase.

48-50 (cancelled)

51 (currently amended). The reverse transcriptase of claim 3, which comprises a substitution of ~~modification or mutation at~~ histidine 204.

52 (currently amended). The kit of claim 47, wherein the retroviral reverse transcriptase comprises a substitution of ~~modification or mutation at~~ histidine 204.